--This application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/484,704 filed January 18, 2000, which is a continuation of Serial No. 08/691,045, filed August 1, 1996 (U.S. Patent 6,015,664) which is a continuation-in-part of 08/552,907 filed November 3, 1995 (U.S. Patent 5,744,299).--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 – 51.

Please add the following new claims:

52. (New Claim) A method of detecting the presence of at least two target nucleic acids in a biological sample comprising the steps of

exposing a nucleic acid sample to at least two primer pairs specific for at least two target nucleic acids under conditions suitable for nucleic acid amplification, wherein the nucleic acid sample is a nucleic acid obtained from a biological sample or is a cDNA obtained from the nucleic acid of the biological sample, wherein the primer pairs comprise a 5' primer and a 3' primer, wherein the 5' primer and the 3' primer are present in unequal concentrations, wherein double stranded amplification product is formed if the nucleic acid sample contains the target nucleic acids and wherein the double-stranded amplification product is present in a greater amount as measured by optical density compared to product formed in a separate control reaction with equal primer concentrations.

53. (New Claim) The method of claim 52 wherein the ratio of 5' to 3' primer is selected from the group consisting of approximately 50:25, 25:50, 12.5:50 and 12.5:25.

54. (New Claim) The method of claim 52 wherein the product is present at least 3.59 times the amount of product produced with equal primer concentration.

55. (New Claim) A method of detecting the presence of at least two target nucleic acids in a biological sample comprising the steps of

exposing a nucleic acid sample to at least two primer pairs specific for at least two target nucleic acids under conditions suitable for nucleic acid amplification, wherein the nucleic acid sample is a nucleic acid obtained from a biological sample or is a cDNA obtained from the nucleic acid of the biological sample, wherein the primer pairs comprise a 5' primer and a 3' primer, wherein the 5' primer and the 3' primer are present in unequal concentrations, wherein double stranded amplification product is formed if the nucleic acid sample contains the target nucleic acids and wherein the double-stranded amplification product is present in a greater amount as measured by optical density compared to product formed in a separate control reaction with equal primer concentrations, wherein the nucleic acid or cDNA created from the nucleic acid is exposed to at least two primers pairs specific for sequences selected from the group consisting of parainfluenza virus-1, 2 and 3, respiratory syncytial virus A and B and influenza virus A and B sequences.

56. (New Claim) The method of claim 55 wherein the product is present at least 3.59 times the amount of product produced with equal primer concentration.

57. (New Claim) The method of claim 55 wherein the ratio of 5' to 3' primer is selected from the group consisting of approximately 50:25, 25:50, 12.5:50 and 12.5:25.

58. (New Claim) A method of detecting the presence of at least two target nucleic acids in a biological sample comprising the steps of

exposing a nucleic acid sample to at least two primer pairs specific for at least two target nucleic acids under conditions suitable for nucleic acid amplification, wherein the nucleic acid sample is a nucleic acid obtained from a biological sample or is a cDNA obtained from the nucleic acid of the biological sample, wherein the primer pairs comprise a 5' primer and a 3' primer, wherein the 5' primer and the 3' primer are present in unequal concentrations, wherein double stranded amplification product is formed if the nucleic acid sample contains the target nucleic acids and wherein the double-stranded amplification product is present in a greater amount as measured by optical density compared to product formed in a separate control reaction with equal primer concentrations; and

denaturing the double-stranded product at least once.

59. (New Claim) The method of claim 58 wherein the product is present at least 3.59 times the amount of product produced with equal primer concentration.

60. (New Claim) The method of claim 58 wherein the ratio of 5' to 3' primer is selected from the group consisting of approximately 50:25, 25:50, 12.5:50 and 12.5:25.

61. (New Claim) A method of detecting the presence of at least two target nucleic acids in a biological sample comprising the steps of

exposing a nucleic acid sample to at least two primer pairs specific for at least two target nucleic acids under conditions suitable for nucleic acid

amplification, wherein the nucleic acid sample is a nucleic acid obtained from a biological sample or is a cDNA obtained from the nucleic acid of the biological sample, wherein the primer pairs comprise a 5' primer and a 3' primer, wherein the 5' primer and the 3' primer are present in unequal concentrations, wherein double stranded amplification product is formed if the nucleic acid sample contains the target nucleic acids and wherein the double-stranded amplification product is present in a greater amount as measured by optical density compared to product formed in a separate control reaction with equal primer concentrations, wherein the nucleic acid or cDNA created from the nucleic acid is exposed to at least two primers pairs specific for sequences selected from the group consisting of parainfluenza virus-1, 2 and 3, respiratory syncytial virus A and B and influenza virus A and B sequences and denaturing the double-stranded product.

62. (New Claim) The method of claim 61 wherein the product is present at least 3.59 times the amount of product produced with equal primer concentration.

63. (New Claim) The method of claim 61 wherein the ratio of 5' to 3' primer is selected from the group consisting of approximately 50:25, 25:50, 12.5:50 and 12.5:25.